

In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1-11 [Canceled]

1 12. [Previously presented] Method for operating an account
2 payable computing system, comprising:

3

4 preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable
5 data base original electronic invoices received from a
6 vendor to identify duplicate invoices, including:

7 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice
8 designation, same purchase order number, and same item
9 number;

10 calculating a net sum of items on invoices identified
11 as having said same vendor invoice designation, said
12 same purchase order number, and said same item number;

13 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
14 electronic invoice for which said net sum is greater
15 than zero;

16 automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection
17 transaction back to said vendor for said original electronic

18 invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting
19 said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable
20 data base; and

21 introducing said original electronic invoices not identified
22 as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

1 13. [Previously presented] The method of claim 12, said
2 preprocessing including

3 first sorting said original electronic invoice against
4 an accounts payable production table for same vendor
5 and same vendor invoice number;

6 second sorting hits from said first sorting for same
7 purchase order billed;

8 third sorting hits from said second sorting for same
9 items billed on purchase order;

10 calculating a net sum of said same items; and

11 rejecting back to said customer as a duplicate invoice
12 said original electronic invoice if it contains said
13 item with a net sum greater than zero.

1 14. [Previously presented] A computing system, comprising:
2
3 an accounts payable data base;
4
5 a preprocessor for identifying duplicate invoices from among
6 electronic invoices received from a vendor before
7 introducing said electronic invoices into said accounts
8 payable data base by:
9 identifying electronic invoices having a same vendor
10 invoice designation, same purchase order number, and
11 same item number;
12 calculating a net sum of items on invoices identified
13 as having said same vendor invoice designation, said
14 same purchase order number, and said same item number;
15 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
16 electronic invoice for which said net sum is greater
17 than zero;
18 an invoice processor for selectively automatically
19 communicating a duplicate invoice rejection transaction back
20 to said vendor for said original electronic invoice
21 identified as a duplicate invoice without posting said

22 original electronic invoice to said accounts payable data
23 base; or introducing said original electronic invoice not
24 identified as said duplicate invoice into said accounts
25 payable data base.

1 15. [Currently amended] A program storage device ~~readable by a~~
2 ~~machine,~~ tangibly embodying a program of instructions ~~executable~~
3 for controlling the operation of ~~by a machine to perform a method~~
4 ~~for operating~~ a computing system responsive to receipt of an
5 electronic input invoice from a vendor, ~~said~~ according to a
6 method comprising:

7 preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable
8 data base original electronic invoices received from a
9 vendor to identify duplicate invoices, including:

10 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice
11 designation, same purchase order number, and same item
12 number;

13 calculating a net sum of items on invoices identified
14 as having said same vendor invoice designation, said
15 same purchase order number, and said same item number;

16 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
17 electronic invoice for which said net sum is greater

18 than zero;

19 automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection

20 transaction back to said vendor for said original electronic

21 invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting

22 said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable

23 data base; and

24 ~~introducing~~ storing said original electronic invoices not

25 identified as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable

26 data base.

1 16. [New] Method for operating an accounts payable computing

2 system, comprising:

3 receiving an original electronic invoice from a vendor;

4 rejecting original electronic invoices received from vendors

5 not initialized as trading partners, and translating

6 original electronic invoices received from vendors

7 initialized as trading partners;

8 assuring that during said translating the count of

9 translated invoices rejected and accepted equals the number

10 of original electronic invoices translated, and feeding

11 accepted invoices for preprocessing;

12
13 preprocessing invoices accepted for preprocessing as
14 received from a trading partner vendor, said preprocessing
15 selectively validating a transaction, calculating line item
16 accounts, deducting sales tax, and identifying original
17 electronic invoices which are duplicate invoices before
18 introduction into an accounts payable data base, said
19 identifying duplicate invoices including:

20 sorting all inbound invoices in credit/debit sequence;

21 auditing only debit invoices one at a time for
22 duplicate invoices and committing to said accounts
23 payable data base only those debit invoices which are
24 not duplicate invoices;

25 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice
26 designation, same purchase order number, and same item
27 number;

28 calculating a net sum of items on invoices identified
29 as having said same vendor invoice designation, said
30 same purchase order number, and said same item number;

31 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
32 electronic invoice for which said net sum is greater

33 than zero; said identifying including execution of
34 check verbs, each said check verb being satisfied to
35 identify said invoice as a duplicate invoice; said
36 check verbs including determining that this vendor is
37 a vendor for which duplicate invoice checking is to be
38 performed, determining that there is a purchase order
39 history of previous purchase orders for said invoice,
40 and determining for each item on said invoice a sum of
41 its purchase order history, with said sum being
42 greater than zero for at least one said item;

43 automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection
44 transaction back to said vendor for an original electronic
45 invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting
46 said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable
47 data base;

48 posting said invoice to a workflow database and assuring
49 that the number and amount of invoices posted to said
50 workflow database equal the number and amount of translated
51 invoices accepted for preprocessing;

52 logging to an error queue invoices failing audit for
53 subsequent manual processing;

54 logging to an exceptions and warnings log table as

55 exceptions invoices which are determined during
56 preprocessing to be duplicate invoices and as warnings
57 invoices which during preprocessing were recalculated or had
58 sales tax deducted;

59 introducing said original electronic invoices not identified
60 as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

1 17. [New] The method of claim 16, said preprocessing including

2 first sorting said original electronic invoice against an
3 accounts payable production table for same vendor and same
4 vendor invoice number;

5 second sorting hits from said first sorting for same
6 purchase order billed;

7 third sorting hits from said second sorting for same items
8 billed on purchase order;

9 calculating a net sum of said same items; and

10 rejecting back to said customer as a duplicate invoice said
11 original electronic invoice if it contains said item with a
12 net sum greater than zero.

1 18. [New] A computing system, comprising:

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3 an accounts payable data base;

4 a translator for receiving an original electronic invoice

5 from a trading partner and selectively rejecting said

6 original invoice back to said trading partner or accepting

7 said original invoice for further processing;

8

9 a preprocessor for identifying duplicate invoices from among

10 electronic invoices accepted for further processing before

11 introducing said electronic invoices into said accounts

12 payable data base by:

13 sorting all inbound invoices in credit/debit sequence;

14 auditing only debit invoices one at a time for

15 duplicate invoices and committing to said accounts

16 payable data base only those debit invoices which are

17 not duplicate invoices;

18 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice

19 designation, same purchase order number, and same item

20 number;

21 calculating a net sum of items on invoices identified

22 as having said same vendor invoice designation, said
23 same purchase order number, and said same item number;

24 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
25 electronic invoice for which said net sum is greater
26 than zero; said identifying including execution of
27 check verbs, each said check verb being satisfied to
28 identify said invoice as a duplicate invoice; said
29 check verbs including determining that this vendor is
30 a vendor for which duplicate invoice checking is to be
31 performed, determining that there is a purchase order
32 history of previous purchase orders for said invoice,
33 and determining for each item on said invoice a sum of
34 its purchase order history, with said sum being
35 greater than zero for at least one said item;

36 an invoice processor for selectively automatically
37 communicating a duplicate invoice rejection transaction back
38 to said vendor for said original electronic invoice
39 identified as a duplicate invoice without posting said
40 original electronic invoice to said accounts payable data
41 base; or introducing said original electronic invoice not
42 identified as said duplicate invoice into said accounts
43 payable data base.

1 19. [New] A program storage device readable by a machine,

2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
3 machine to perform a method for operating a computing system
4 responsive to receipt of an electronic input invoice from a
5 vendor for selectively rejecting back to said vendor duplicate
6 invoices without logging said duplicate invoices to an accounts
7 payable database, said method comprising:

8 receiving an original electronic invoice from a vendor;

9 rejecting original electronic invoices received from vendors
10 not initialized as trading partners, and translating
11 original electronic invoices received from vendors
12 initialized as trading partners;

13 assuring that during said translating the count of
14 translated invoices rejected and accepted equals the number
15 of original electronic invoices translated, and feeding
16 accepted invoices for preprocessing;

17
18 preprocessing invoices accepted for preprocessing as
19 received from a trading partner vendor, said preprocessing
20 selectively validating a transaction, calculating line item
21 accounts, deducting sales tax, and identifying original
22 electronic invoices which are duplicate invoices before
23 introduction into an accounts payable data base, said
24 identifying duplicate invoices including:

25 sorting all inbound invoices in credit/debit sequence;

26 auditing only debit invoices one at a time for
27 duplicate invoices and committing to said accounts
28 payable data base only those debit invoices which are
29 not duplicate invoices;

30 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice
31 designation, same purchase order number, and same item
32 number;

33 calculating a net sum of items on invoices identified
34 as having said same vendor invoice designation, said
35 same purchase order number, and said same item number;

36 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
37 electronic invoice for which said net sum is greater
38 than zero; said identifying including execution of
39 check verbs, each said check verb being satisfied to
40 identify said invoice as a duplicate invoice; said
41 check verbs including determining that this vendor is
42 a vendor for which duplicate invoice checking is to be
43 performed, determining that there is a purchase order
44 history of previous purchase orders for said invoice,
45 and determining for each item on said invoice a sum of
46 its purchase order history, with said sum being

47 greater than zero for at least one said item;

48 automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection
49 transaction back to said vendor for an original electronic
50 invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting
51 said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable
52 data base;

53 posting said invoice to a workflow database and assuring
54 that the number and amount of invoices posted to said
55 workflow database equal the number and amount of translated
56 invoices accepted for preprocessing;

57 logging to an error queue invoices failing audit for
58 subsequent manual processing;

59 logging to an exceptions and warnings log table as
60 exceptions invoices which are determined during
61 preprocessing to be duplicate invoices and as warnings
62 invoices which during preprocessing were recalculated or had
63 sales tax deducted;

64 introducing said original electronic invoices not identified
as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.